WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for use in a network system provided with plural information processing apparatus to which connected is a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other apparatus through the network, the apparatus comprising:

management means for managing the information of a shared device present in said network system;

reception means for receiving the information of a shared device connected to another information processing apparatus;

transmission means for transmitting the information of a shared device connected to the own apparatus to apparatus on said network system; and

renewal means for renewing the information of the shared device in said management means, based on the information received by said reception means.

2. An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes first reception control means for designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said group.

3. An information processing apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein said reception means includes second reception control means for detecting log-on of another information processing apparatus to said network system and receiving the information of the

5    shared device of said another information processing apparatus.

4.  An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reception means is adapted,

10    at the log-on to said network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in said network system.

5.  An information processing apparatus according

15    to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said change.

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6.  An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared

25    device connected to the own apparatus.

7.  An information processing apparatus according

to claim 1, wherein said renewal means is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network system, to invalidate the information of the shared

5    device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

8.    An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transmission means is

10    adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus to another information processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management apparatus on said network

15    system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said network system.

9.    An information processing method for use in a

20    network system provided with plural information processing apparatus to which connected is a shared device so functioning as to be usable from other apparatus through the network, the method comprising:

a management step of managing the information of

25    a shared device present in said network system by management means;

a reception step of receiving the information of

a shared device connected to another information

processing apparatus;

a transmission step of transmitting the

information of a shared device connected to the own

5    apparatus to apparatus on said network system; and

a renewal step of renewing the information of the

shared device in said management means, based on the

information received by said reception step.


10      10. An information processing method according

to claim 9, wherein said reception means includes a

first reception control step of designating a group

satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the

information of the shared device included in said

15    group.


11. An information processing method according

to claim 9, wherein said reception step includes a

second reception control step of detecting log-on of

20    another information processing apparatus to said

network system and receiving the information of the

shared device of said another information processing

apparatus.


25      12. An information processing method according

to claim 9, wherein said reception step is adapted, at

the log-on to said network system, to automatically

receive the information of the shared device present in said network system.

13. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to transmit information on the status after said change.

14. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus.

15. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

16. An information processing method according to claim 9, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus to another information

processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first
method for transmission to a predetermined management
apparatus on said network system or a second method
for transmission to another information processing
5  apparatus through said network system.


17.  A computer readable memory which stores a
program to be executed by a computer of an information
processing apparatus for use in a network system
10  provided with plural information processing apparatus
to which connected is a shared device so functioning
as to be usable from other apparatus through the
network, the program comprising:
a management step of managing the information of
15  a shared device present in said network system by
management means;
a reception step of receiving the information of
a shared device connected to another information
processing apparatus;
20  a transmission step of transmitting the
information of a shared device connected to the own
apparatus to apparatus on said network system; and
a renewal step of renewing the information of the
shared device in said management means, based on the
25  information received by said reception step.


18.  A computer readable memory according to

claim 17, wherein said reception means includes a first reception control step of designating a group satisfying a predetermined condition and receiving the information of the shared device included in said

5    group.

19.    A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step includes a second reception control step of detecting log-on of

10    another information processing apparatus to said network system and receiving the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus.

15    20.    A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said reception step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically receive the information of the shared device present in said network system.

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21.    A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in response to the detection of a change in the status of a shared device connected to the own apparatus, to

25    transmit information on the status after said change.

22.    A computer readable memory according to

claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, at the log-on to said network system, to automatically transmit the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus.

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23. A computer readable memory according to claim 17, wherein said renewal step is adapted, in response to the detection of log-off of another information processing apparatus from said network

10 system, to invalidate the information of the shared device of said another information processing apparatus in said management means.

24. A computer readable memory according to

15 claim 17, wherein said transmission step is adapted, in informing the information of the shared device connected to the own apparatus to another information processing apparatus, to selectively execute a first method for transmission to a predetermined management

20 apparatus on said network system or a second method for transmission to another information processing apparatus through said network system.